SH-INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

DAHLY DISPATCH is delivered to sub-pathly DISPATCH is delivered to sub-rat VIFTEEN CENTS per week, payable to the weekly Mailed at \$8 per annum; \$3 for six \$150, per month for a shorter period. SEMI-WEEKLY DISPATCH at \$2 per an-

Nichmond Dispatch.

FT THE CIRCULATION OF THE DIS-TOR IS LARGER THAN THE COMBINED CULATION OF ALL THE OTHER DAILY

THE WEATHER TO-DAY .- From our rethis morning the probabilities are that eather to-day will be warm and cloudy.

THE WEATHER OR SURday was clear, or ly cloudy, with moderate temperature. weather yesterday was mild and cloudy ring the forenoon, with severe wind and motorm about 3 o clock. At night it was ady, cooler, and threatening.

E rage of Thermaneter at the Disputch office March 15, 1875.

LOCAL MATTERS.

HE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

ANNUAL MESSAGE OF MAYOR A. M. REILEY.

OUR FINANCES.

Richmond City Bonds are To-Day

GRATIFYING EXHIBIT IN ALI DEPARTMENTS.

THE COMMON COUNCIL.

General P. T. Moore's Claim of \$1,200 Ordered to be Paid.

The Police Commissioners and the Pay

OTHER BUSINESS.

vesterday atternoon - Mr. M. L. Straus, -- was surpended in order that he might ent the to lowing joint resolution; sired the B and of Aldermen concur-That leave be granted for the interof the remains of Sister Maria Angela a num of the Order of Visitation, within closure attached to the convent Monte a, on Grace street between Twenty-

ANNUAL MISSAGE OF THE MAYOR.

ag, as follows

its of the various departments of the service for the fiscal year ending Feb v 1st, 1875, accompanied by such sugges-

Unhappily the general business prostration m which we have suffered in common with aintry at large continues, and the year e, so valuable an element in our pros-But our defliculties are the less burme because so universally encountered, it is likely that the whole people are ning some lessons of economy in that p school of adversity whose teachings papt to be a permanent acquisition. crean municipal administration of late No great crimes of violence to perhave shocked the moral sense; no great mity has brought mourning to many les, and the health of the city has been r than during any year since the war. the course of the year the city lost the es of Major W. G. Turpin, the engiof the James River improvement, by . He was a skirtul and faithful officer me of the most amiable and honorable The same year witnessed the death olonel Thomas II. Wynne, formerly the Sic Per Cent. Couident of your body, and at the time of eath a representative of the city in the te of Virginia, a useful and highly honderizer, for more than twenty years milled directly or indirectly with the most ortant public positions and interests. I record their names here in testimony of

the serious loss I feel the city sustained in

It is a great source of satisfaction that the appe of another year finds our credit firmer, ar bonds higher, and the financial outlook Richmond City bonds are to-day the best

Virginia security, and superior to the maity of the municipal securities of the country-north or south. They have within the ist three years come to be the favorite instment of trust estates; and the figureial patie of 1873, which shook public confidence so generally in other securities left not only unhapaired, but enhanced the public favor

and scarcely anything as the tables show, and is under constant inenforced. I have had the nonor already per centum, the first instalment of the its officers, Captain Bigger and Captain e bended debt of the city, and that \$14,- Epps, are conspicuous for the fidelity and have already been redeemed. At each

I deem it my duty in this connection to Il the attention of the Council to the

the reservoir, \$250,000 - making a total of the latter year:

84.572,107.15. There are besides, as the Council are aware. numerous projects of greater or less degree of merit and urgency, which, if passed to completion, will require a further issue of bonds, and some existing debts which must be provided for. Among these there is the maturity of \$40,887.56 of the city debt in July next, all of which the sinking fund may not be able to extinguish, inasmuch as there is over \$33,000 of already matured debt that has not yet been presented for redemption. The condemnation of Dock street involves an outlay of \$22,000. Two market-houses are proposed. A new station-house for the Third police-station, a new engine-house, improvement of parks, a large appropriation to James River improvement, a military hall, the enlargement or reconstruction of the city jail, and many other minor schemes involving an or can be made in the general approduring the year. If all of these be carried Council ready to meet it except by the ordifull one-a matter which the State assessment, which will probably be ordered this ported sick, and 175 days of service were year, will determine. I deem it proper to bring these matters to the notice of the Coun-

bonded issue more nearly without grave necessity. The time may soon come when the aid of the General Government to an internal case of the General Government to an internal case of the General Government to an internal case of the field monthly report for January showed 35 men sick and 175 days lost; Gullies 5.123 the report for February showed 11 sick and General Government to an internal case of the field monthly report for January showed 35 men sick and 175 days lost; Gullies 5.123 the report for February showed 11 sick and General Government to an internal case of the field monthly report for January showed 35 men sick and 175 days lost; Gullies 5.123 the report for February showed 11 sick and 175 days lost; Gullies 5.123 the report for February showed 11 sick and 175 days lost; Gullies 5.123 the report for February showed 11 sick and 175 days lost; Gullies 5.123 the report for February showed 11 sick and 175 days lost; Gullies 5.123 the report for February showed 11 sick and 175 days lost; Gullies 5.123 the report for February showed 11 sick and 175 days lost; Gullies 5.123 the report for February showed 11 sick and 175 days lost; Gullies 5.123 the report for February showed 11 sick and 175 days lost; Gullies 5.123 the report for February showed 11 sick and 175 days lost; Gullies 5.123 the report for February showed 11 sick and 175 days lost; Gullies 5.123 the report for February showed 11 sick and 175 days lost; Gullies 5.123 the report for February showed 11 sick and 175 days lost; Gullies 5.123 the report for February showed 11 sick and 175 days lost; Gullies 5.123 the report for February showed 11 sick and 175 days lost; Gullies 5.123 the report for February showed 11 sick and 175 days lost; Gullies 5.123 the report for February showed 11 sick and 175 days lost; Gullies 5.123 the report for February showed 11 sick and 175 days lost; Gullies 5.123 the report for February showed 11 sick and 175 days lost; Gullies 5.123 the report for February showed 11 sick and 175 days lost; Gullies 5.123 the report for conditioned on the aid of Richmond, under circumstances which would challenge the support of all her intelligent people. In such to have exhausted our privilege of creating a

Our bonded debt February, 1873, was \$3,-418,503.47; February, 1874, \$3,977,990.97; February, 1875, \$4,239,727.97. Increase in 1873, \$559,487.50; increase in 1874, \$261,-

The estimated receipts from all sources for ditor's report of last year (p. 61 of the reports of 1874), \$956,050. The actual receipts during the year proved to be \$939,603, excluding from the grand total of \$1,505,684, the amount derived from bills payable (\$256,-522), and from sale of bonds (\$309,559). It, however, we add to the amount actually paid the unsettled tax now in litigation charged by our ordinances to the banks in the city, the difference will be more than made up. This sum is \$20,170, due as follows:

First National Bank \$ 8,976 61 1.443 00

Upon the basis of the above estimates the nd and Twenty-third streets. Agreed to. appropriations of the year were made, and the Council merit the thanks of the citizens for restricting the outlay as they have done, he Sergeent-at-Arms faid before the so that the ordinary income met the ordinary hope to commence the year 1876 without a dollar of floating debt. The appropriations already ordered by the Council for ordinary xpenses will be met by ordinary receipts, and the interest on the public debt promptly paid without any increase in the tax rate. The following table will show the exact transactions in bonds during the year and the present amount of outstanding securities of

> STATEMENT OF THE BONDED DEBT OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, FEBRUARY 1, 1875. Eight Per Cent. Cou-

Outstanding 1st Feb-ruary, 1874 7, 1874 \$ 291,500 00 during the 46.000 00 year..... 337,500 00

Less charged to re-59,000 00 Outstanding 1st Feb-ruary, 1875..... \$ 278,500 00 Eight Per Cent. Re-gistered Bonds. Outstanding 1st Feb-456.400 00

398 000 00 854.000 00 Hypotheca-ted bonds retired, \$100,200 hanged to coupon bonds.... 2.000 Outstanding 1st Feb-ruary, 1874...... Changed to register-128,000 00

Outstanding 1st Feb-104,000 00 Six Per Cent. Regis-tered Bonds. Outstanding 1st February, 1874.....3,102.090 97 Issued during the 20.372 38

30,372 38 3,132,463 35 organization of the Com-Redeemable by tommis-sioners sink-

ing Fund...19 463 00 27.435 38 Outstanding 1st February, 1875 ... 3.105.027 97 Total bonded debt 1st Feb., 1875.. \$4,239,727 97

The report of the Superintendent of the Almshouse is accompanied by numerous and uld be passed to comply with the interesting statistical details. The average This has been done, and its was 255 as against 228 the year before, and isions have been strictly complied with. the average cost of their subsistence \$46.64 bing is more common than to provide by as against \$50.33 the preceding year. When we remember that the paupers receive three meals a day, that their food is greatly varied,

spection to insure sundries, the charge for subsistence, which amounts per capita to 12 4 5 cents a day, indicates a commendable care and economy in this department. During the year but one complaint of the management reached my ear. I investigated it in person and at length, and found it ations for the last fiscal year, showing to be totally unfounded. The institution is there is now to the credit of the Board a model of cleanliness and good order, and

intelligence with which their duties are disthe city extends the evil grows, and the trot section of chapthe bonds of the city; thus not only securing as to give to the Mayor and Police Justice, safe deposit of the fund, but helping to as well as the Committee for the Relief of traintain a just price for our securities, for the Poor, authority to send the sick and desthe reason that the city will always be in the titute, who are strangers, to the almshouse under the restrictions contained in that sec-

It does not seem to be generally known act that we are nearing the legal limit that we have a public free hospital in the city in which those who have not acquired by a of the authority of the city to in-crease its bonded debt. An act of As-year's residence the right of perpetual supcombly approved April 16, 1874, prescribes port may obtain medical attention and temthat the "bonds or interest-bearing debt of porary relief. In the case of these strangers

ing debt same day, \$82,379 18; needed for | numbering 228 in the former and 245 during | such impurities as are not promptly deposited | are lit by the police, it seems best to lodge | 4,000,000 gallons, for which we receive \$170.

1878-'74. 1874-'75.
\$11.527 37 811.428 84
8. 2,418 50 1,887 50
6.256 00 6,786 59
3,384 91 3,444 34
3,215 48 3,007 58 Clothing..... Total expenditures \$82,805 67 \$31,659 72 Charging the paupers with the items of subsistence, salaries, clothing, and fuel, they

apiece. In 1874 they cost ninety-four dollars and thirty cents apiece. Fortunately the alm-house is ample in size and appointments for the reasonable needs of our city for a long period to come.

The Chief of Police has added to his retime from sickness continues out of all propriation bill, will probably be pressed portion to the number of the force That eighty men of more than ordinary health the year of 1875 will witness the reach- and strength should lose 1,115 days by sicking of the limit of bonded obligation; and ness in a single year is inexcusable. This reto exigency, however great, will find the presents an expenditure from the taxes of the people of \$2,787 for which the city receives nary appropriations, unless the real estate of no return. As the year approached its conthe city increases materially. Well-informed clusion the evil augmented until in January, past two years: citizens believe the present assessment to be when the general health of the city was as good as usual, thirty five of the force re-

lost to the city.

The Board of Police Commissioners on the cil, believing that in the present extreme and 6th of February adopted an order designed general depression of the business of the to remedy this evil by withholding half-pay country it is unsafe to calculate on such an from those who were sick, reserving the increase in the taxable real estate as would right to allow full pay in any meritorious case, make it wise to approach the legal limit of and the health of the force was at once reimprovement, or the construction of some 77 days lost, and of these 77 days, 28 days most valuable line of communication, may be were lost by one case of protracted disease continued from January. The order of the Board was not issued, as I have said, until the 6th of the month, and its effect is still an emergency it might be an irreparable evil more marked by the fact that in the first week in February 43 days were lost by sickness and in the remaining three weeks but 34 days. It is hoped that the year 1875 will show a reform of this abuse.

Among the tables in the report of the Chief is one showing the number of arrests made during the year as compared with those of several other cities. The result would not be year 1874-'5 was, according to the Au- be flattering to our repute as an orderly city if every citizen's experience did not contradict the apparent conclusions. Taking the census of 1870 as an equitable guide in making comparisons, it will be seen that New York, with twenty times the population of Richmond, had but thirteen times the arrests Philadelphia, with thirteen times the population, had but six and a half times the arrests; Cincinnati, with four times the population, has but one and a half times the arrests; Charleston, with about the same population, has less than half the arrests. That Richmond is inferior in public order to any of these cities no one familiar with her people would affirm. A more law-abiding community does not exist. The explanation is to be found in the culpable facility with which some magistrates issue warrants, oftentimes confounding felonies with misdemeanors, and still more frequently issuing process without justification. It is not unlikely that the mischief is aided by the profit to the officers for

the city, receive the fees of constables. During the past year the Commonwealth paid to the officers of the First station \$2.204.20; to the officers of the Second station, \$1,311.40; to the officers of the Third station, \$932.65.

While some of these members of the force are incapable of encouraging strife that they may profit by it, others may not be so scrupulous. There is a good deal of human nature in a policeman as well as in other peo-

It is worthy of remark that the colored arrests considerably increased last year. The following table shows the amounts of the respective colors for the past three years:

There had been for some years a steady decline in the number of colored people arrested. Probably the distress and idleness in the past twelve months explains the change in this respect. It is proper to say that a large portion of the warrants are dismissed. The station accommodations are sufficient except at the Third station, which is much too contracted, and by reason of the public stable on this lot frequently quite offensive in summer. The others of that district have made so few appeals to the Council for improvement that I hope their wishes, and those of the people of the western district of the city who have occasion to go to the station-house, for better quarters may in this regard be complied with, and that either the police or the fire company will be moved. The better course would probably be to move the company, as the accommodations are very contracted, and the removal of the police would not enlarge the room for the horses

and steamer. With the single exception of the sick-list mentioned above, I am glad to say that the condition and conduct of the force are in all respects satisfactory. I believe that fewer charges have been preferred against them than heretofore, and that in sobriety, politeness, and faithfulness they deserve the highest praise.

The City Engineer very properly calls at-tention to the bad condition of the streets and sidewalks of the city, and to the inadequacy of the means at the command of the committee to a more complete discharge of their duty. The proposition to improve the streets by a fund derived from a further issue of bonds does not seem to me the proper way of meeting the difficulty. The result of such an application of money would inevitably be a great and immediate increase of legacy of greatly-increased outlay for annual

repair forever afterwards. I see no reason to change the opinion I have uniformly expressed, that we shall have to choose between the abandonment of every effort to secure anything like completeness of either roadway or walkway, or we shall be compelled to follow the example of the majority of other cities, and make the property whose value is enhanced by these improvements contribute a proportion of their

Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been added during the past five years to the worth of property in certain quarters of the tables of expenditures in the various wards for street improvements being almost an exact measure of the advance in value; and as difficulty from which there is no suggested exit, but an increase of permanent ills. It

difficult to understand how those urge the expenditure of public who money for these purposes, on the ground that it increases tax-receipts, should or pose the contribution of part of the outlay by those the enhancement of whose property by this public outlay is the sole occasion of

the increased taxation. water, as he does for everything else, according to second of the delty of the city, and therefore worthless.

The bound of everything else, according to the city, and therefore worthless.

The bound of everything else, according to the city, and therefore worthless.

The bounded debt of the city on the 1st of The bounded debt of the city and the everything to the second that the city, and therefore worthless, and therefore worthless, and therefore worthless.

The bounded debt of the city on the 1st of The bounded debt of the city on the 1st of The bounded debt of the city and therefore worthless, as heretofore stated, and a light of the city and therefore worthless.

The bounded debt of the city on the 1st of The bounded debt of the city on the 1st of The bounded debt of the city and therefore worthless, as heretofore stated, and the continue to increase and a great decreased, and must continue to increase and a great decreased and must continue to increase and the water, as he does for everything else, according to the section 1 and there would be both an increase of revenue and a great decreased and must continue to increase and a great decreased and must continue to increase and the words as the source of this pleasest experience is words. The would be better to the city of the city of the second of the city and the continue to increase and the words as to water and compliance as a mended by the output of water. The comment in private use of gas has increased, and must continue to increase and the words as the continue to increase and the words as to water and must continue to increase and the words as to water and must continue to increase and the words as to water and must continue to increase and compliance as a mended by the words as to water and must continue to increase and the words as to water and must continue to increase and compliance and must continue to increase and compliance and must continue to increase and compliance and the words as to work and the city and the city and the city and the ci

analyses show that it don't make any differ- \$80,000. Of this sum \$34,603 were paid into tune is that while the city gets little, many ence if it is.

RICHMOND, VA., TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 16, 1875.

one practical result of which, of no little tion of this department is the faithfulness with last years: value, is the assurance that the amount of which the collection of the bills is enforced. pulverized alum (five grains to a gallon) ade- During the year 33,440 bills, calling for cost in 1873 one hundred and seven dollars quate to the complete purification of the \$157,378, were made out. The uncollected and twenty seven cents (\$107.27) per annum water is in no degree deleterious to bealth.

moval of the unsightly and dangerous re-mains of the old City Hell. The contract for eightry per cent in four years. the sale and removal was made Jone 20th, 1873, and six months given to remove it. The lease expired December 23d, and has been partment for the past two years: extended from time to time, finally wotil port for the year several new tables of in- May 1st, 1875. The city has the means of Coal, carbonized (bushoutlay for which no provision is made terest. I am sorry to report that the loss of enforcing the obligation, and should not give the pile of unsightliness a longer lease. One hundred thousand bricks are on the ground as a guaranty of compliance, and are as great a nuisance, if not as dangerous a one, as the dismantled building itself, for whose removal they are a pledge. The fotlowing tables give a comparative view of the work and expenditures of the office for the

> Hands and carts \$28,043 62 \$27,163 Expenses by Street Com-mittee ... Expenses by Council ... Expenses for repairs 13,009 16 30,929 50 3,009 65 38,193 18 8,227 95 16.470 43.226 4.123 13.229 21,558 Expenses special......... Grounds and buildings... Total.....*121,413 06 \$125,789 WORK PERFORMED. 1873. 1874. Square Yards. Square Yards. 555½ 6.224 7.114 8.569 5.123 4.397 6.981 9.540 Lineal Feet. Lineal Feet.

HEALTH. The report and accompanying statistics of the Board of Health are, as usual, full of interesting and valuable information. The most important exhibit of this department to the public at large is the gratifying decrease in the mortality of the past year compared with that of the one preceding. The birth, marriage, and death statistics for the two years are as follows:

26 200 6.160

4,332

1874- '75. 1873-'74.

The proportion of infantile deaths coninues very large, those under five years constituting over 45 per cent, of the whole numper of deaths as against 432 per cent. the preceding year; and this, too, with a notably liminished death-list from diphtheria and cholera-infantum, the most fatal infantile complaints in our climate. The death-rate, which in 1873-'4 was 33 to each 1,000 of population, was last year reduced 241 in the same number, if the Board's estimate of the population at 65,000 is reliable.

The systems followed in the various cities making arrests and summoning witnesses, are so different, and probably the degree of til the smend message of the Mayor, in expenditures. If the same disposition marks | The captains and sergeants of the force have fidelity in accumulating facts so varying, that little reliance can be placed on the genera table of this description for comparative results. No one, I presume, could be persuaded by any array of statistics that the mortality in Richmond was 65 per cent. higher than in Louisville, Ky., a city of about the same latitude, climate, and general conditions, yet such is the affirmance of the ta-

I belive that in this city as true and complete an account of deaths is obtained as is possible, and am quite sure that nothing is eft undone on the part of the Board to secure it. I venture to repeat the hope that the Board will at some future time make an effort to obtain the information on this subect to which in two annual messages I have alled attention-that is to say, a disease-record, showing the amount and locality of the various diseases, whether resulting in death or not, which prevail in Richmond. Making every allowance for the carelessness with which the reports of many other cities are made out, the death-rate in Richmond remains excessive, when we reflect on the advantages of climate, site, water, and room, for

expansion of which we justly boast. The Board, it will be observed, ask for considerable increase of their powers and duties, including among others the power to order and coercce the grading and paving of private alleys, the feecing in of unoccupied lots, the closing up or regulating of houses which in their opinion are unfit tenements, the closing up of damp cellars or their regulation, the prevention of overcrowded dwelling-houses, the cleaning of the streets under a salaried officer, &c.

The Council will, of course, be cautious about conferring these extraordinary powers upon a bureau whose acts are subject to no special revision or control; and one which, albeit now guided only by an enlightened regard for the public well-being, can by no process be insured.

THE GAS WORKS.

The report of operations in this department is in every respect satisfactory. For thorough purification, high Illuminary power, and entire adequacy of supply the gas production of Richmond will compare with any in the country, while on the score of cost it is not only the cheapest gas furnished in the Commonwealth, but the rate is lower than the average in any State or Territory in the Union. I have before me a table of the average cost of gas to the consumer in each political subdivision of the country, and the lowest-West Virginia-is \$3.11, while to the people of Richmond gas is furnished at \$2.85 per thousand-the average net price throughout the United States being \$4.32½ per one thousand cubic feet. When we remember that this low rate is the area of paved streets and walks, and a charged for an unsurpassed article, and that fourth of the whole, of one and a half inches. withal a profit of \$80,000 was realized last the works of \$1,000,000, the management of should have been placed. this branch of the public service may with contidence claim the approbation of the citi-

During the coming year arrangements will be made for the direct delivery of the gas from the lower instead of as at present, making a second storage in the old works on

Cary street. This will be the prelude to the abandonment at no distant day of the upper works, for the continuance of which no better reason can be assigned than the unwillingness city directly out of the city treasury, the to relinquish property which cost a great deal of money, however useless at present. The manufacture and storage of gas should be at the same point and under a single con-

> During the year the consumption of gas cubic feet. An examination of the records at the office will show that this is due first charged. to the greater economy in the public expenditure, which was one million four hundred and twenty-three thousand two hundred cient plar, in my judgment, would be to and ninety-four (1,423,294) feet less in 1874 than in 1873, and secondly, to the diminished consumption by the Chesapeake and Ohio brew ries, railroad depôts, and generally in

by reason of their weight are quite harmless. this power in the hands of this officer as a or at the rate of \$42.50 per million gallons-In a word, the professor's experiments show matter of convenience. The revenue from a sum ridiculously disproportionate to the that the mischief is irremediable, while his this department has been already stated at value of the article furnished. The misforthe public treasury, and the residue is ac- of the people who pay all they are asked re-The city owes the engineer and the pro-counted for by the gratuitious supply to the selve no equivalent. These are the two evils fessor an acknowledgment for the trouble and public officers, buildings, and streets. Not to be remedied. abor bestowed on this interesting inquiry, the least gratheing feature of the administraportion amounts to but \$412, or about I trust the Council will soon enferee the re- twenty-four cents he every hundred dollars.

> The following table will show the chief items of interest in the statistics of this de-1573.

\$75,974 91,529 11,433 167,721 Paid for other expenses Received from coke, &c. Received from gas..... This table is chiefly interesting, as show- flouring mills of Haxall, Crenshaw & Co., on ing that the improved firmedial condition of the evening of the 4th of April.

the works is not owing to increased consumption, but to economy in management. Excluding construction accounts and interest on capital, each thousand feet of gas produced in 1873 cost \$1.98, each thousand in steamer, and hose company, behas no further 1874 cost \$1.72 to manufacture-a gain of 26 eents per thousand. The proposition still further to reduce the

a fair interest on her investment, will. I presume, receive little favor at the hands of the at the corner of Marshall street and Brook the force considerably in excess of the most Council. If the record of the works from their introduction were examined it would be found that so far from the city being in debt to the gas consumers, the latter were under a heavy obligation to the public at large, from whose united contributions the works were built and maintained.

Moreover, if the principle is a just one if should be extended to the water supply, and the result would be that the water-consumers, who are in the main the gas-consumers, would lose a dollar on their water rates for every dime they would save on their gas-bills. The revenue lights the streets and public buildings, which are used by all, and the surplus lightens the burden of general taxation borne by all.

WATER. No branch of the city service demands at this time more consideration at the hands of the Council than the matter of water sup ply; and I beg to call your attention to a few facts which the official report and my own experience, in common with that of the citizens generally, furnish:

In the first place, the superintendent reports that the consumption of 1874 exceeds that of 1873 nearly twenty fice per cent.; nevertheless it will be observed that the increase of rents was less than seven per cept. In the next place the waste of water is so fast-growing an evil that while the pumping in August, when the use and evaporation are at their maximum, was 111,600,000 gallons, the pumping in January, when they are at the minimum, was 116,814.000.

experience of hundreds of our citizens, that of the Board, and the preference of the oill- and while he had little doubt that some even with this large distribution, amounting thing like dress-parades and formal exhibito an average per day of sixty-five gullons for every man, woman, and child in the city, what the visitors may see and hear to be the whether water-takers or not, it is often impossible to get anything like an adequate supply from their hydrants, especially interior ones, and often times for long periods impossible to get any supply at all.

A resulting and, in my judgment, very serious evil is this. The policy of this city for years has tended to compel the construction of water-closets within the houses, Wherever this is the case, and an abundant supply of water is not furnished, a pesthouse is erected in the midst of the family. the most fatal (as modern medical theories declare) of all sources of disease-one to which the feebler constitutions are especially susceptible. (Does this tend to explain the extreme infantile death-rate in

Richmond?) Again, attention is called to the very extravagant waste of water as illustrated by a simple but conclusive experiment, although the result is but an approximation. On the 19th of October, the reservoir being full, the pumps were stopped, and the consumption from 6 A. M. to 6 P. M. measured 2,164,932 gallons. The consumption for the following twelve hours of night measured 1,805,077 gallons -in other word-, the night consumption was eighty-four percent, of the day consumption. The draught was nearly as great when the people were asleep and the factories closed as when the consumption was at its height. Finally, the Superintendent entertains great doubt whether the pumping power, relaforced as it has been during the past year by a large steam pump and a turbine-wheel, will fill the new reservoir as well

as the old. Omitting the last as a conjectural difficulty the others resolve themselves into two questions-one of supply, the other of profit. I think an examination will show that the main cause of inefficient supply is not the lack of head in the reservoir, but the inade-

quate capacity of the pipes. Two circumstances should have determined the use of even larger pipes in Richmond than are usual: First, the frequent, almost constant, impurities in the water, which could not but result in a large internal coating to the pipes, and a consequent diminution of their capacity; and secondly, the peculiar configuration of our city. When a water-pipe with a sharp descent joins one nearly horizontal the greater velocity in the inclined arm when it is opened by a running hydrant drains the more nearly level portion faster than it can fill Neither consideration seems to have influenced those who originally bid the pipes; and to-day, after many changes substituting large for small pipes have been made, of the 240,272 feet of water-pipe in Richmond, ranging in dia neter from 12 to 24 under, and about 10,000 feet, or one-twenty- notes issued during the late war. The matter Unfortunately, some of the smallest pipes year on an estimated capital in the value of are found in localities where the largest

A systematic substitution of larger pipes on as rapidly as the means at the control of

the committee will permit. There remains the question of income its first decision. from the works. I endeavored to obtain some statistics from other cities in respect to the matter of changes and the scale of prices. but have not information enough to warrant a contident opinion. Under existing ordinances a tariff of prices, including a vast number of items, is followed-the charges to private consumers being preportioned to the assessed value of the predises, with a specific charge for water-classics and baths. The superintendent is of e'pinion that the appointment of inspectors, would check the excessive waste of water and thus serve to reduce expense. I do not think so. The checking of waste, desirable as it may be, would do relatively little towards reducing has been diminished nearly two millions of expense. What the city should attempt is to make a fair a pportionment of the prices

A revision of the tariff of rents may do something i', this direction, but a more cfliprovide water-meters in the places of largest

I append a table of comparison of the two Receipts. 1973. 1874 From water rents \$58,137 45 \$62,046 45

Expenses. 25,100.00 39 949 St Construction ordinary. 18,000 00 17,999 96 Enlargement of works, 139,300 70 261,557 36 The delinquency has been reduced over ...\$182,400 70 \$310,507 13 Total Excess of receipts on

> FIRE. The report of the Chief Engineer of the The report of the Chief Engineer of the the policemen during the time that they Fire Department contains the usual informative sick." tion concerning the fire record of the year. The Department was called out seventy-six was done in pursuance of the desire of the times during the year, being thirty-two times Board to prevent the money of the tax-payers oftener than the year before, and the aggragate of loss was \$310,240, against \$20,235 the preceding year. Of this large amount of loss \$274,000 was the result of the burning of the

current expense 38,087 45 81,097 64

The equipment of the force is in good condition; and the Chief Engineer reports that ness. This amounted during the past year in view of the prompt response of the Councilito his requests for a new engine house, suggestion to make at this time by way of improvement.

price of gas because the city is at least getting rableness of separating the Third: police- ities of four northern and four southern station from the quarters of Company "D;" etties, and find our proportion of sickness in

avenue. The appropriation for current expenses of I hoped that calling attention to this mat-\$35,000 was not exhausted during the year, for would have the effect of diminishing this I am glad to be able to endorse the engi-levil. neer's praises of the efficiency and good conduct of his force. Their zeal, promptitude,

and faithful work, when called on, deserve all his commendations. THE PUBLIC: SCHOOLS.

The school reports, as I have heretofore observed lose much of their interest from and their duties are not specially unhealthy; the circumstance that the school session closes nine months before the period of annual report, and all the statistics regarding it

have long been before the public. The schools are now full, and provision must soon be made for enlarging the accommodations for the children in the western portion of the city, where the chief growth in population is to be found. The erection of a plain building, something after the plan there should be any early revival of the prices missioners. of real estate.

I do not feel it necessary to add more than a cordial endorsement of the Superintend-aid the evil could be remedied; but, as he ent's invitation to parents to visit the schools remarked, there are many diseases incapactand without notice. It is the earnest desire cers and teachers, that there should be notions for the benefit of visitors. We desire tainty. regular daily routine work, and this is not tion of the Board, an order was unanimously only not interfered with by visitors who cor duct themselves properly, but is helped by them especially, if those visitors are pirents. The child who sees his father and mother teacher to feel that she may rely on sympathy, if not active assistance, at home.

As each year passes I feel it to be a matter of special rejoicing that the confidence of the to give the attempt at reform a fair trial. people in the system grows, and that we escape the difficulties and enmities which in ample vindication of its wisdom. It was so many quarters impede public education. adopted on the 6th of February, and the Perfection may be predicated of no human official monthly report now before me shows institution or endeavor. Our chance of ap- that since that time the loss of time in the proaching it is very much in the ratio of the force has been but thirty-four days, and of numbers interested in its attainment and these twenty-two were lost by the chronic the energy and honesty of their efforts to illness of one man. The total number of reach it. It is therefore a matter always of sick men during the month was eleven. satisfaction to witness honest inquiry into These figures tell their own story. In and candid criticism upon this comparatively new work; and it is especially becoming the order was made, the city lost one hunthat the Council should foster every fair move in that direction by personal investi- twenty-two days of February, after the order gation. I hope, therefore, that the intelli- was made, the loss was thirty-four days. gent gentlemen who form the committees in The number of sick men in January was your two branches on the public schools thirty-four, in February eleven. The loss may find it convenient to make frequent and of money to the city treasury from twentyunnannounced school visits, to see for them-selves the result of the outlay of the Coun-police was \$310. The loss during twentyselves the result of the outlay of the Council for the education of our youth and the two days of February was \$85. methods and instruments by which they are

The condition and character of the litigation in which the city is concerned being matter in which all the citizens are concern ed, I requested the City Attorney to prepare for me a list of the causes pending in the courts to which Richmond is a party, with a brief abstract of the points involved, and an account of the stage of proceedings in each. His report will be found herewith. Cases are pending in the Supreme Court of Appeals, with a prospect of early decision, involving the right of the city to prohibit the use by the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac railroad of steam engines on Broad street; the right to lax bank shares owned by non-residents; the right to imoose a license upon foreign corporations doing business here; and the existence and extent of the liability of the city for personal damage said to be occasioned by the condition of her sidewalks.

In all these cases the judgment of the courts below have been favorable to the city, and the attorney expresses more or less confidently his opinion that the original judgments will be affirmed.

The only case of special interest in lower tribunals is one involving the liability inches, 118 345 feet are of four inches and of the city for the redemption of the small was decided favorably to the city in another cause by the Supreme Court of the United States, but the plaintiffs have instituted other actions, apparently with the view of confining the litigation to the State tribunals. It in proper places should, I think, be carried is not likely that this purpose will be atzained, and if not it is quite certain that the Supreme Court of the United States will affirm

I cannot conclude this message without a word of merited commendation of the respective officers by whom the various departments of the city are conducted. The obligation I am under to supervise their acts, and the constant association and daily intercourse I have with many of them, at once justifies this reference, and gives it, I hope, some value. In uniform courtesy, in laborious attention to their public duties, in fitness for their several spheres of service, in harmonious cooperation, and in honest adelity to their trusts, it is scant praise to say that they will city of 1875, the temporary execution of the compare favorably with any set of officers by same directed by a joint resolution heretowhom this city, or any other city, was ever

Nor can I deny myself the pleasure of kindness of their individual relations to- meet the necessities of the case. wards myself. In a service now fast filling up the measure of its fifth year I cannot reconsult aption—hotels, stables, factories, call a single instance of unpleasant encorinter. On the rare occasions upon which, on

Railroad Company, which, during the years tho e places where the consumption is neapplication is generally made to a ponceman, the company which, during the years and it would save time and lighten the labor of the committee if these officers, who are in vision is secured by a further declaration.

square, twelve insertion NO. 64.

and uprightness with which their official du- 21 ties have been performed. I am, gentlemen, very respectfully, your

THE DISPATCH

TERMS OF ADVERTISING: CASH-INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

fellow-citizen, A. M. KEILEY, Mayor. On motion of Mr. Bargamin, the message was received without being read, laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

THE PAY OF POLICEMEN WHEN SICK. The following communication from the Mayor, president of the Board of Police Commissioners, was submitted and read: To the Common Council:

Gentlemen .- I am in receipt of the following resolution from your body, concurred in by the Board of Aldermen: "That the Mayor of this city be requested to report to the Council the reasons which controlled the Board of Police Commissioners in passing their recept order stopping the pay of

In reply, I have the honor to say that this of Richmond from being squandered without cause or equivalent. In the last annual message of the Mayor

the following paragraph occurs with respect to the police force : "In one respect alone I am unable to report any material improvement-to wit: in the loss of time from sickto eleven hundred and thirty-how days. As the compensation of the force is unaffected by siokness this amount of lost time represents an outlay by the city of nearly \$3,000, for which she received no equiva-I have already called attention to the desi- lent. I have communicated with the author-

pohealthy of the eight cities.

For while the majority of the force are inexpable of shirking duty by feigning sickness or throwing extra duty on the conscientious by avoiding duty for trivial causes, it is manifest that some are-less scrupulous. The police are examined by a surgeon, and pronounced physically fit before accepted. yet there is no body of men- in Richmond paid by the day which loses half as much times

As the year 1874 progressed the evil showed no sign of diminution; but when the monthly report for January, 1875, was presented to me, showing that therty-fine of the force had reported sick, and that 175 days of public time had been lost to the city in a single month from this cause, I felt that the of the Madison school (corner of Cary and constitutional provision I. have sworn to Madison streets), may be accomplished, it is maintain—to wit: "To see that the duties of hoped, with little aid from the city, by the the various city officers are faithfully persale of the property now known as the Brook formed "-and my responsibility to the peo-Avenue school, which is quite unsuited to ple, who have a right to every effort of mine its purposes, and the sale of a large amount to prevent the wasting of their money, left of the vacant portion of the square on which me no nerrative but to bring the matter to the Baker school (colored) now stands, if the attention of the Board of Police Com-Prior to that I had had an interview with

the Police Surgeon in the hope that with his in which their children are taught frequently tating a man for work which give no external signs, or such as can be easily simulated: were not sick enough to refuse duty, it was impossible to distinguish them, with cer-The matter thus being brought to the attenmade, modelled after the New York rule

providing that for the first two days of sickness no pay should be received, and for the subsequent days half pay. At the same time interested in his study finds his own interest the Board unanimously resolved that in quickened, and it is a material aid to the every case where an appeal was made for full pay which was meritorious the Board would allow it. This modification was not appended to the resolution in writing in order The result of this order has been the most

twenty-two average days of January, before dred and twenty-four days of time; in Forty three per cent. of the force reported.

sick in January; thirteen pen agat, in Feuruary! These figures present the best answer I can give to the resolution above referred to, and, I cannot doubt, a satisfactory one. Hitherto the Board has taken the fact that a policeman calls himself sick and isby the surgeon as concluding the. question. The object of the present rule is to require the absences to show that he was not only sick, but a so that his sickness was such as, in the opinion of the surgeon, justifies the city in paying him for service he does. not render. The people have a right to expect the best service for this pay. No positions in the gift of the authorities are so much sought after.

The policeman, unlike the city employe. generally, is paid whether sick or well, whether absent on furlough or at home, and finally he is usu ally buried out of the contingent fund. During my incumbency of over four years 1 10 policeman has resigned, sofar as I now rer nember, except to escape expulsion, and in a recent vacancy the clerk numbered the applicants and found them to be one hund ed and eighty-three. These circumstances are mentioned to show that we have the pow er to secure good material, and the public have a right to the best attainable for this impe rtant place. With proper subordination the force will answer every just expectation, a ad the Board of Police Commissioners can jot be suspected of any other purpose than s och as looks to the securing to their fellow-citi tens the best service in this department whi ch their chartered authority will allow. The second resolution adopted with that res ponded to in this communication looking to action of the Council consequent in this I esponse, has been conformed to, that your he morable body might have the opportunity of considering the facts here presented. Ver y respectfully, your obedient servant, A. M. KEILEY, Mayor.

On motion of Mr. Christian, the report

was received. Mir. Christian presented the following : Resolved by the Common Council, (the Brard of Aldermen concurring), That inasmuch as the order issued by the Loard of Police Commissioners stopping the pay of members of the police force during siekness, is in conflict with the provisions of the 89th section of the charter of the city and the 9th section of chapter 31 of the ordinances of the fore adopted, is horeby perpetuated by the

Conneil. Referred to the Committee on Ordinances saying a grateful word for the unchanging, with instructions to bring in an ordinance to

PINANCE. Mr. M. L. Straus, chairman of the Finance Committee, submitted the following joint

resolutions-viz.: Refunding the following amounts upon the petitions of the parties named: George